THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Department of Ocean Development has intimated that in accordance with the Territorial Water, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zones and other Maritime Zones Act, 1976, and with ratification of United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea, Exclusive Economic Zone of 200 nautical miles from baselines is already into existence and therefore the question of finalising road map to set up Exclusive Economic Zone does not arise.

(b) and (c) In view of the above, do not arise.

Issue of commercial licences by IAF

2842. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IAF has started issuing commercial licences from its training academies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Director General of Civil Aviation has approved Air Force Academy, Helicopter Training School and Air Force Station, Yelahanka as centres for conducting flying training for Commercial Pilot Licence and Flight Navigator Licence examinations. Licences will be issued to successful candidates by Director General of Civil Aviation.

Defence co-operation with France

2843. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the first week of November, 2002, a high-level defence delegation left for France to attend the annual meeting of the Committee for Defence Co-operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of co-operation that India seeks from France?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.